

DEPARTMENT OF STATE



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INTERVIEW WITH
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE

BY

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MS. WALTERS: In this presidential campaign, Jimmy Carter has made Secretary of State Henry Kissinger a personal target for criticism of American foreign policy. Much of Kissinger's reputation is based on his efforts to bring peace to the Middle East and, more recently, to Africa. This morning, we met with the Secretary in the State Department in Washington and began our interview about asking him about prospects for peace in those areas of the world.

Mr. Secretary, in looking at the situation in Africa most Americans know that you shuttled back and forth in Africa, that you seem to have made an agreement to guarantee black majority rule in Rhodesia and peace in that part of the world. Now, many in Africa on both sides seem to be waffling. In short, Mr. Secretary, are the agreements you made going to stick?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: It is a very complicated process in which there are several factions on the European side, there are five African Presidents, four liberation movements, all of which have constituencies to appeal. So inevitably you are going to get a lot of public statements. But the process is moving forward. The conference, in my view, will be assembled, and there will be a result that will bring about majority rule, minority rights, and peace in Rhodesia.

It is going to be difficult. And if the radicals get control of the process, it may fail. But right now, I would think that progress is being made.

MS. WALTERS: Mr. Secretary, turning to the Middle East, it seems that the PLO at this time is being wiped out in Lebanon. Will their influence end, and will this help resolve the underlying problem in the Middle East?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, I don't think the PLO is being wiped out. But I think all of the countries in the Middle East are seeing in better perspective what the function of various groups is. I think that conditions are coming about in which progress towards peace in the Middle East can again be made, and I believe that after the Lebanon crisis is either resolved or reduced in intensity that we can turn towards the process of peacemaking in the Middle East with some of the best pro-

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MS. WALTERS: China now has new leadership. Does this new leadership in China affect our relationship with them, as far as you know, right now?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: The truth is we really don't know too much about the new leadership in China. We believe that the foreign policy of a country depends on its basic interests, and we think that those have many comparable interests.

MS. WALTERS: Do you know yourself Hua Kuo-feng? I hope I'm pronouncing it right.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: No, I never met him. I understand he was at some banquet that I attended when the two Presidents were there, but at that time he was not in a position that would have brought him to our attention.

MS. WALTERS: And you have no recollection of him?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I have no recollection. I don't believe I have ever talked to him.

MS. WALTERS: Mr. Secretary, the Russians delivered a sharp attack before the UN General Assembly on your diplomatic efforts in Africa, and you responded equally sharply. Are the relations now between those two countries chilly?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: The problem of peace remains a paramount concern, and that affects importantly the United States and the Soviet Union since we have the capacity to blow up the world. On the other hand, you cannot have peace if one nation reserves itself the right to exacerbate disputes all over the world and encourage the most violent solutions.

In Africa what we are attempting to do should not be contrary to anybody's interest. We have nothing to gain there except peace, which ought to be to everybody's benefit. If the Soviet Union insists on thwarting this, it must have an effect on our relationship, and it will have. But we must also keep in mind that sooner or later the problem of peace among the nuclear powers must be solved, and it must remain one of our basic objectives.

MS. WALTERS: Has it had a relationship yet between the two countries?

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some questions, because we will not accept the proposition that one country can, all over the world, increase tensions and at the same time talk about peaceful coexistence. They have got to do one or the other. If they want peaceful coexistence, they must be responsive in helping us settle disputes.

MS. WALTERS: Does that mean that the principle of detente - whether we use that word or not - that the principle is dead?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: The principle of detente is important, but detente must be reciprocal.

MS. WALTERS: Mr. Secretary, after eight years of working on foreign policy, can you imagine four years more in the Government?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I can imagine it, but my staff can't.

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MS. WALTERS: Secretary Kissinger went on to say that he has not made any decision, that he will talk to the President if he wins about it after the election, but that, quote, his own view is that eight years ought to be enough.

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